

ATIS OMQ ADVON  
APO 500, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

30 November 1945

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Colonel W. L. BALLE  
Op-16FE, Room 4625  
Navy Department Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In order to bring you up to date on the happenings of the past few days, I beg to submit the following for your consideration.

The six non-language officers from JICPOA have arrived and are being briefed for the duties which will be assigned them under the WDC Advance Behelen Plan. The group includes officers who have had specialized technical experience in connection with Sonar equipment, Electronics, Ships and Aircraft. The last named field is represented by a Lt. Comdr. Rand, USN, who has been a combat pilot. Just why a man of his background was assigned to this duty is a bit hard to figure out, but he seems very interested in the assignment and has already established contacts with the Naval Technical Air people in the theater with a view to making sure that documentary materials which they have acquired will ultimately be handed to WDC for evacuation to the USA; in addition, his higher rank will be an asset to the Navy component. In a Lt. Putnam, who has had JICPOA experience, we have a suitable executive officer who will be in a position to tie our activities in closely with those of NavTechJap and who is well qualified from an intelligence point of view. The other four are excellent type personnel who will play an important part in seeing that the whole operation is as effective as is possible under the circumstances.

In connection with this latter point, some interesting developments have taken place. You will recall that, at the outset, the WDC Adv. Ech. was to be the means by which there was to be a rapid evacuation of documents to Washington so that the material might, as soon as possible, be available for research work there. Moreover, it was the consensus of opinion that theater requirements would be determined on the basis of materials needed for security and control only, and that other documents, for the most part at least, would be immediately available for Washington purposes. It was on this basis that I started to arrange to process Naval documents at the various Japanese Naval establishments, and, as you know, sizeable quantities of material have already been forwarded from Yokosuka and the adjacent Naval Air Technical Arsenal. In addition, together with Army personnel, one of our language officers had worked on the selection of a large quantity of documents from Kokubunji, the site of one of the Japanese Army's large research establishments. This latter material had been taken to the wharf at Yokosuka and was about to be loaded on a vessel, when we were advised that the whole lot had to be brought back to a suitable location in Tokyo where it was to be held at the disposal of an Army Ordnance Research officer who was expected to arrive from the War Department. This action

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then constituted the motivating force for a directive which now obliges us to publish detailed shipping advices, disseminate them here in the theater, hold the documents here in Tokyo for two weeks, in such a state that any interested agency or staff section could look at any or all of them with a view to retaining them in the theatre for study or research if desired. Then, after theater clearance has thus been assured, they may be released for shipment. In some cases, the documents may be held available at or adjacent to the site where they were seized, but in view of practical difficulties, it is felt that this will probably require as much time, before the shipment is started on its way, as if it were forwarded here to Tokyo in the first instance.

In view of the foregoing it is obvious that the whole process of document evacuation will be very considerably slowed down. In addition, since we will be performing a semi-library function here, there will be inevitable increases in clerical activity, physical handling of the material, and of course, employment of language personnel for purposes other than the simple selection and evaluation incident to evacuation. This is a disappointing development, but it is a situation which we must conform to, or risk not being able to send anything to Washington.

You will be interested to learn that, at long last, the Army component of the Adv. Ech. has arrived, and I expect that by early December the WDC Adv. Ech. plan may be in actual operation.

In my last report, I referred to a lot of Japanese Naval Documents which we had received from the Bombing Survey and were processing. This material is now aboard the USS ANCON, and the ship is expected to depart on 1 December. I am enclosing herewith an inventory of the documents and it will be apparent that they include considerable material of interest. The Bombing Survey has taken delivery of the material for purposes of forwarding it to WDC and the Survey has expressly agreed not to turn it over to any other activity. However, it is well known that the Survey is much interested in the material and proposes to process it on the way over and after its arrival in Washington, hence I feel that interested GHO activities would be well advised to remind the Survey to turn over the documents to WDC as soon as possible so that Navy needs may be met. This is still by far the most interesting Naval material yet uncovered, and I feel that this may be all that will be available for some time to come.

When I took delivery of it from the Japanese Navy, it was part of a special trainload of some seven cars of documents. I returned five carloads of personnel records to the Japanese in view of their apparent lack of worth to us and their obvious value to the Japanese for demobilization and pension purposes. I was hoping that this would keep them happy, but not long before the documents in our possession were to be shipped, we received an urgent request that they be returned. We were all much opposed to such action, but the Japanese Liaison Office in GHQ was inclined to be sympathetic in the matter of this request in order to insure continued cooperation with respect to interrogations of Japanese Navy personnel, etc. Admiral Otsie of the Survey made strong

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representations to General Willoughby, and after some discussion the shipment was allowed to leave Japan. However, I personally feel that if it had not been for the strong position which the Survey occupies in this theater, it might have been necessary to resort to perhaps the Joint Chiefs of Staff to arrange for the documents to be forwarded to Washington. As you can imagine, it was very interesting to watch how this matter progressed.

In general, I feel the situation may be summarized somewhat as follows:

1. To date, there has been a negligible income of documents through the intelligence channel; language detachments with some of the tactical units are seizing and securing document targets and giving notice of such actions - others are doing nothing.
2. Many documents are being picked up by the technical teams, most of whom do not give us any notification of same; some of these documents may, in the future, find their way to us; others will no doubt be forwarded directly to various Washington activities.
3. The bulk of the AFIS organization is still in the process of being settled here in their new quarters; a few have been sent out to reinforce the language detachments with tactical units, and this is supposed to be considerably accelerated in the near future.
4. NavTechJap interest continues to be centered around purely technical matters, and there is a wide variety of documentary material in which they have no apparent interest. We are assured, however, that the documents they do hold will be handed over to WDC Adv. Ech. when they have served their purpose.
5. Now that the Army personnel have arrived, the Naval personnel who have been engaged primary in the exploitation of purely naval targets will be used in the implementation of the WDC Adv. Ech. Plan; this involves their assignment to the various army tactical unit language detachments where they will work on all kinds of targets without regard to any special service interest.
6. Theater requirements must now be considered as involving not only considerations of security and control, but also research.
7. In view of the necessity of sending all documents to Tokyo and holding them available for two weeks so that the various activities may select material for theater research activity, the flow of documents to Washington will be very considerably slowed down.
8. A wide variety of conditions may be said to apply as regards the various document targets. For example, some are well secured and are likely to remain so until AFIS and WDC teams get to them; some are not secured by occupation force personnel but are being looked after by the Japanese authorities, who are charged with the responsibility

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of seeing that nothing happens to the material; I feel that under this system some loss of documents is inevitable, but it is probably a reasonable minimum. Some targets have been made available to souvenir hunters, with resultant total loss of valuable materials - Kure and Yokosuka Naval Bases are examples of this policy.

As mentioned above, I am now making our personnel available for the WDC Adv. Ech. plan, so exploitation of purely naval targets will be carried out in accordance with that plan. In the meantime, we have covered Yokosuka, Maizuru, Naval Air Technical Arsenal, Kure, Shipping Ministry and in addition, have surveyed the principal targets in the Tokyo area preparatory to exploitation once official permission to enter the premises has been granted by GHQ.

Last week we were able to get a small amount of material on the way from Kure, by APO facilities, but in view of the new policy on clearing material, which I have dealt with above, I am afraid that it may be some time before large document shipments for WDC may be expected. As a matter of fact, I would not be surprised if I were taken to task for the materials we have been so presumptuous to forward before we were expressly told not to ship anything without special theater clearance. I am sure, however, that you will also receive some documents which have been forwarded directly by various intelligence activities without going through channels, but in so doing, these intelligence activities have acted contrary to theater regulations.

In general, things are going smoothly and harmoniously; I have arranged to maintain close, continuous liaison with other Naval activities and have received much help and encouragement, particularly from the Naval Liaison Office.

I will be writing you again in the near future, in the meantime,  
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Respectfully yours,

Leo Reierstad,  
Lt. Comdr., USNR.